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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
HELMSLEY

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ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the year



1953

W.R.M. COUPER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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Including the Report  
of the  
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

F.W. STONEY, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
HELMSLEY

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Mr Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Helmsley Rural District for the year 1953.

W.R.M. COUPER

Public Health Officers of the Authority:

Medical Officer of Health, W.R.M. Couper, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, F.W. Stoney, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector, W.C. Ranson, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Section ASTATISTICS AND GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres .....	67,705
Estimated population .....	5,426
Number of inhabited houses .....	1,365
Rateable Value .....	£21,121
Product of Penny Rate .....	£83

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Births</u>	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	40	29	69
Legitimate	36	28	64
Illegitimate	4	1	5
Still Births	4	1	5
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
All births live and still	44	30	74

Crude live birth rate (per 1,000 population) .....	13 . 6
Illegitimate rate (percentage of total births) .....	6 . 1%
Still birth rate (per 1,000 population) .....	0 . 92

Maternal Mortality

No deaths attributable to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion occurred during the year.

Maternal Mortality Rate ..... NIL

Infant Mortality

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	1	2	3

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births) ..... 43 . 5

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	-	2	2

	Male	Female	Total
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	-	2	2

Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births) ..... 29 . 0

Causes of death in the district for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

Cause of death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	-	1	1
Tuberculosis, other .....	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease .....	-	-	-
Diphtheria .....	-	-	-
Whooping Cough .....	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections .....	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis .....	-	-	-
Measles .....	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases .....	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .....	6	1	7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	-	-	-
Diabetes .....	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of the nervous system .....	1	7	8
Coronary disease, angina .....	2	2	4
Hypertension with heart disease .....	1	1	2
Other heart disease .....	1	6	7
Other circulatory disease .....	1	1	2
Influenza .....	-	-	-
Pneumonia .....	1	1	2
Bronchitis .....	-	-	-
Other diseases of the respiratory system .....	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .....	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis .....	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate .....	-	-	-



	Male	Female	Total
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	-	-	-
Congenital malformations .....	1	-	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases .....	2	5	7
Motor vehicle accidents .....	-	-	-
All other accidents .....	-	-	-
Suicide .....	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war .....	-	-	-
All causes .....	19	25	44

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated population) ..... 8 . 5

Comparison of Birth and Death Rates

The crude Birth and Death Rates of any district are not directly comparable with those of England and Wales. To make approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution differs from that of England and Wales as a whole the crude rates are multiplied by a comparability factor.

Crude Live Birth Rate .....	13 . 6
Comparability factor for births .....	1 . 15
Adjusted Birth Rate .....	15 . 6
Crude Death Rate .....	8 . 5
Comparability factor for deaths .....	1 . 11
Adjusted Death Rate .....	9 . 4

Comparative Table of Birth and Death Rates during 1953

Rates per 1,000 population

	Live Birth Rate	Stillbirth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
England & Wales	15 . 5	0 . 35	11 . 4	26 . 8
Helmsley R.D.	15 . 6	0 . 92	8 . 5	43 . 5

Section B

Prevalence of and control over Infectious Diseases

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1953.

Disease	Cases notified
Measles	18
Whooping Cough	14
Scarlet Fever	4

Pneumonia	3
Puerperal pyrexia	1
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Total	40

Where necessary cases of infectious disease are admitted to Cross Lane Hospital, Scarborough, and Yearsley Bridge Hospital, York.

Tuberculosis

New cases and mortality during 1953.

Sex	New cases		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Male	1	-	-	-
Female	-	-	1	-
Totals	1	-	1	-

Section C

General Provisions of Health Services

(i) Laboratory Facilities

Samples for bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Northallerton. A van calls once a week to collect specimens.

(ii) Local Services under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946

The day to day administration of the following services is carried out by the Ryedale Local Health Sub-committee in the urban districts of Malton and Pickering and the rural districts of Helmsley, Kirbymoorside, Malton and Pickering.

(a) Care of mothers and young children

Child welfare and ante-natal clinics are held at 13 centres in the Ryedale area. In places where no clinic is held ante-natal and child welfare services are carried out by health visitors in the home.

(b) Midwifery, Health Visiting and Home Nursing

Combined duty nurses serving 16 nursing districts are resident in the area.

(c) Ambulance Service

Ambulance stations at Malton and Kirbymoorside provide this service.

(d) Immunisation and Vaccination

Provision is made for primary immunisation against Diphtheria at child welfare centres but the greater part of this service is carried out by general practitioners in their surgeries and in the home.

(e) Domestic Help Service

This service provides domestic help, at a charge dependent on the income of the household, in homes where there has been a confinement or ill-health of the mother and to the aged and infirm.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR'S  
DEPARTMENT

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Senior Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Water Engineer:

F.W. Stoney, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

W.C. Ranson, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,

Clerk - Miss A. Richardson

Staff for Refuse Collection, Housing Repairs and General Duties:

G. Bean (Foreman), W.A. Ware (Mason), S. Shields (Mason's Labourer),

E.W. Dunning, J. Colley and J.B. Handley

Sewage Disposal Plant Attendants:

B.W. Baker and G.W. Garbutt

Water Bailiffs:

A.E. Anderson, W.A. Beecroft and E. Beecroft

Rodent Operative - M.O. Wilson

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR  
AND SURVEYOR

For the year ended 31st December, 1953.



To the Chairman and Members of  
the Helmsley Rural District Council

Mr Chairman, My Lord and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor's Department of your Council for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

The total number of visits of inspection made throughout the year for all purposes was 2,399 and is summarised as follows:-

## GENERAL SANITATION

Drainage	178
Complaints investigated	65
Public Conveniences	74
Factories	8
Shops	58
Rodent Control	172
Schools	21
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	576

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection	93
Refuse Disposal	31
Salvage	2
Miscellaneous	73
	<hr/>
	199

## WATER SUPPLIES

Piethorne	67
Ampleforth	11
Helmsley	55
Gilling East	8
Cawton	17
Lousy Lane	5

Oswaldkirk	10
Newton East & Leysthorpe	3
Byland with Wass	42
Old Byland	12
Stonegrave & Nunnington	4
Sproxton	28
Scawton & Cold Kirby	38
R.A.F. Wombledon	11
	<hr/>
	311

## SEWAGE WORKS

Helmsley	18
Oswaldkirk	16
Ampleforth	57
Gilling East	14
Harome, Beadlam etc.	14
Sproxton	26
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	145

## HOUSING

No. of houses inspected under P.H. and Housing Acts	47
No. of visits necessary to above-mentioned houses	62
No. of visits to squatters	6
No. of visits to Council houses	528
No. of visits to applicants for Council houses	179
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	822

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Visits re disinfection	4
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## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Visits to Slaughterhouses	10
Visits to Butchers Shops	26
Visits to Food Premises	48
Visits to Ice-Cream Premises	22
Market Inspections	50
Visits to Fried Fish Shops	27

Visits to Bakehouses	16
	<hr/>
	199

CIVIL BUILDING CONTROL

Visits re applications for licences	6
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BUILDING BYELAWS

No. of visits re building work in progress	128
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PETROLEUM SPIRIT REGULATIONS

Visits to establishments re storage	4
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Total	2,399
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H O U S I N G

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

Approximately 75% of the houses in the District requiring to be dealt with under this Survey have been inspected, and it is hoped to complete the Survey in the near future. It is expected that the completed Survey will show approximately 180 houses to be considered unfit for human habitation, and incapable of repair at a reasonable cost.

One application for grant-aid to private owners of property under the Housing Act, 1949, was approved during the year.

COUNCIL HOUSE PROGRAMME

The following Table shows the position at the end of the year with regard to the houses owned by this Council:-

Site	Type	Completed during year	Constructing	Existing	Total
Helmsley	Brick & Stone	16	10	92	118
Harome	Airey, Brick & Stone	-	-	18	18
Pockley	Brick & Stone	-	-	6	6
Beadlam	Airey & Brick	-	-	34	34
Old Byland	Stone	-	-	2	2
Ampleforth	Brick	8	-	41	49
Coulton	Brick	-	-	3	3
Cawton	Stone	-	-	1	1
Gilling East	Stone	-	2	4	6
Sproxton	Stone	-	-	6	6
Oswaldkirk	Stone	-	4	4	8
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Totals	24	16	211	251
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

There are approximately 70 applications for Council houses outstanding, but the majority of these are from persons living or working outside the District. It can be said that the applicants belonging to the District who have no separate home have now almost all been dealt with.

During the year the following houses were completed and occupied under private enterprise:-

Site	Type	Under Construction	No. completed	Total
Harome	Stone	2	-	2
Gilling East	Stone	1	-	1
Helmsley	Stone	1	1	2
Ampleforth	Stone	-	1	1
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Totals	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>

I must record, with very deep regret, that after the end of the year under review the mason employed by the Council died. He was an extremely good servant to the Council and his death was a very real loss to my Department.

During the year the mason and the labourer were fully engaged on housing repairs and work in connection with the Council's various water supplies and sewage disposal systems.

#### TEMPORARY HOUSING

One remaining Nissen Hut at the Military Camp at Ampleforth was vacated during the year and the hut demolished.

#### FOOD ADMINISTRATION

##### (a) MILK SUPPLY

Seven samples of milk were taken from producer retailers in the District and submitted for bacteriological examination, and all of these showed reasonably satisfactory results. At the same time sedimentation tests were carried out, these also gave satisfactory results.

Twenty-nine dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

##### (b) MEAT AND OTHER FOOD

The Ministry of Food Distribution Centre at Easingwold continues to furnish a satisfactory supply of meat to this area.

The standard of handling and storage of meat was found, on the routine inspections paid to butchers' establishments in the District, to be of a reasonably good standard.



During the year the following foodstuffs were examined and condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

24 lbs Canned Pork  
 15 lbs 13 ozs Cooked Gammon Ham  
 15 lbs 10 ozs " " "  
 30 lbs 2 ozs " " "  
 5 kilograms Canned Pear Pulp  
 10 lbs 8 ozs Canned Pineapple Rings  
 14 lbs 9 ozs Canned Cooked Ham

These items were disposed of by incineration.

None of the items comprised part of a large consignment, therefore, examination of consignments as a whole was unnecessary.

Food premises in the area, by type of business, are as follows:-

Hotels	Cafes	Grocers	General Shops dealing in limited quantities of foodstuffs	Bakehouses
7	3	6	11	4

There are, in addition, six licensed premises other than hotels.

The number of food premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is as follows:-

Butchers Shops	Fish Fryers	Ice-cream Retailers
4	3	9

#### SHOPS, STALLS AND VEHICLES

Closed vehicles used for the transport of meat, market stalls dealing in fish and vegetables were subjected to regular supervision and conditions have been reasonably satisfactory.

#### FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES

Hotels, restaurants and other premises dealing in the preparation of food have been regularly inspected and conditions generally were satisfactory.

#### ICE-CREAM

No ice-cream is manufactured in the District.

Those shops registered for the sale of ice-cream all deal in the commodity in pre-packed form.



## FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

## SHELL FISH REGULATIONS

No action has been taken during the year.

## BAKEHOUSES

Four bakehouses in the area have been regularly visited and satisfactory condition have prevailed.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no Designated Offensive Trades in the area.

## FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948

Several visits were made to factories and workshops in the area and there are no outworkers in the District.

## W A T E R      S U P P L Y

There are piped water supplies to all of the villages in the area. On some of the smaller schemes it is difficult to maintain a satisfactory supply either as a result of inadequacy or poor quality. Most of the outlying farms and properties derive individual supplies from small privately owned land springs.

At the end of the year sixty houses were drawing supplies from stand pipes. Thirty-five new services to properties were provided. Twelve services were extended or improved.

## EXTENTIONS TO WATER MAIN

During the year the scheme for redistribution of the Piethorne water system has been completed. This scheme has the effect of improving the supply to the high level regions served by the Piethorne Scheme, and any deficiency to the lower regions is made good from the Ryedale Water Board's Main at Stony Cross.

Work has commenced on the Southern Area Distribution Scheme and at the end of the year a good deal of progress had been made on the project. The Scheme, when completed, provides for water taken from the Ryedale Water Board's Mains at Lousy Lane being piped to Gilling East, Oswaldkirk, Ampleforth, Wass Sproxton, Helmsley and Stonegrave. Two new reservoirs are under construction, one at Stocking Lane and one at Tom Smith's Cross. Provision is made, within the compass of this Scheme, for the possibilites of extension to Cold Kirby and Scawton. Looking to the future there is a further

possibility of this Scheme being extended to Old Byland and Rievaulx.

## ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the water supplies owned by this Authority together with those jointly owned by the Helmsley and Kirbymoorside Rural District Councils is the responsibility of my Department.

During the period under review seventy visits were made to the joint schemes and two hundred and forty-one to others - a total of three hundred and eleven, apart from the numerous visits made by the water bailiffs.

Three bailiffs are employed by the Department - two part-time and one full-time - on work including the alteration of supplies to non-domestic users, tapping of mains for new connections, maintenance, repair and improvement work and the constant supervision of all parts of the various supplies.

Two clerks of works are employed by the Council in connection with the Southern Area Distribution Scheme and also to carry out any clearing-up work in connection with other contracts.

## QUALITY OF SUPPLY

All supplies are reasonably free from chemical contamination and none has a plumbo-solvent action.

The Oswaldkirk supply has a large iron content. This supply will be replaced shortly by the Southern Area Water Scheme.

The Helmsley Town and Piethorne water schemes are provided with hyperchlorinators which have been operated when found necessary.

Eighty samples of the various water supplies in the District were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year when thirty-one proved satisfactory and forty-nine unsatisfactory. Unsatisfactory results were followed-up and extra supervision kept on the supply until improvement was effected.

The following Table sets out the particulars of the water supplies in the area of the Helmsley Rural District Council:-

Name of Supply	Owner	District Served	Nature of Supply
Piethorne	Helmsley & Kirbymoorside Joint Water Committee	Harome, Beadlam, Wombledon, Pockley, Skiplar & Nawton Towers.	Springs with gravitation by Cast Iron Mains

Nunnington & Leysthorpe	Helmsley & Kirbymoorside Joint Water Committee	Nunnington, Leysthorpe & Stonegrave	Springs with gravitation
Helmsley Town	Helmsley R.D.C.	Helmsley Town	do
Rievaulx	Duncombe Park Estate	Rievaulx	do
Carlton	do	Carlton	do
Sproxton	Helmsley R.D.C.	Sproxton	Hydraulic Rams
Ampleforth	do	Ampleforth	Springs with gravitation
Byland-with-Wass	do	Byland-with-Wass	do
Old Byland	do	Old Byland	Hydraulic Rams
Hawnby	Mexborough Estate	Hawnby	Springs with gravitation
Oswaldkirk	Helmsley R.D.C.	Oswaldkirk	Artesian Well
Cawton	do	Cawton	Hydraulic Rams
Gilling East	do	Gilling East	Springs with gravitation
Coulton	do	Coulton	Hydraulic Rams
Scawton and Cold Kirby	do	Scawton, Cold Kirby & Hambleton	do
Thorpe-le-Willows	do	Thorpe-le-Willows	Springs with gravitation
Wombledon	Helmsley R.D.C. for Ministry of Health	Harome	Boreholes

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING

Approximately 2,250 tons of refuse were dealt with during the year. Collection, on a fortnightly basis by direct labour, is undertaken in all parishes of the Rural District with the exception of outlying farms. A karrier C.K. 3 - 10 cubic yards capacity - is employed on this work and an older Karrier Bantam of 7 cubic yards capacity is held in reserve in case of emergency.

The increasing number of houses in the District is reflected in the steadily increasing quantity of refuse being dealt with, and, as has been stated in previous reports the need for re-organization of this service is urgent. I must also draw the Council's attention, once again, to the need for an alternative site for the disposal of refuse as the central tip at Helmsley where all refuse is disposed of by partially controlled tipping is unsafe for vehicular traffic and is occupying practically the whole of the available site.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Council is responsible for five sewage disposal works, namely, Helmsley,



Oswaldkirk, Gilling East, Sproxton and Ampleforth, and together with the Kirbymoorside Rural District Council is responsible for the sewage disposal plant at Wombleton which serves the parishes of Nawton, Beadlam and Harome.

The joint scheme instituted by Helmsley and Kirbymoorside Rural District Councils for the sewerage of certain parishes in both districts is now practically completed. Following on the completion of the sewer extension and Ejector Station in Mill Street, Harome, which is expected in the coming year, there will remain only the village of Wombleton to be dealt with.

The position regarding the Helmsley Works continues to deteriorate as with the steadily increasing number of houses the difficulty of attaining satisfactory working conditions becomes greater. The Works are long overdue for modernization and extension and it is impossible to provide a satisfactory effluent in their present condition.

It is hoped that in the coming year work will be carried out to provide a modern filter and humus tank to replace the existing land irrigation system at the Oswaldkirk Works, and this work should remedy the nuisance at present arising from the saturated state of the available land.

Work on the provision of sewers and sewage disposal works at Ampleforth was completed towards the end of the year.

All the more thickly populated parts of the area have now been provided with sewage disposal facilities but the Council will require to consider the question of the sewerage of the remaining smaller villages. In this connection I would again stress the difficulties experienced at Cold Kirby owing to the unsatisfactory condition of the existing drain.

Two sewage disposal plant attendants are employed by the Council - one dealing with Wombleton Joint Sewage Disposal Works and Sproxton, the other with Ampleforth, Oswaldkirk and Gilling East. The Works at Helmsley are attended, when labour is available, by the general labouring staff of the Department.

#### EXTENSION TO SEWER

With the exception of the works already mentioned there have been no extensions to sewers.

#### DRAINAGE

All new drainage work is inspected and tested, and advice given on drainage lay-outs. Maintenance work is carried out constantly to Council-owned septic tanks and to open sewage ditches. In addition, clearing of choked drains and sewers has been carried out

when necessary during the year.

#### C L O S E T   A C C O M M O D A T I O N

During the year eleven privies were converted to the water carriage system in the various parishes of the District. One additional W.C. was provided to old property and the twenty-six new houses have water closet accommodation.

#### S A L V A G E

Owing to the refusal of the Board Mills to take salvage waste-paper the Council's storage accommodation was completely filled during most of the year and no salvage collection could be made. At the end of the year, however, a firm bought up a part of the waste-paper which was usable and from this sale the Council received £25. 3. 9d.

#### R E C H A R G E A B L E   W O R K

Rechargeable work to the value of £47. 12. 2d. was carried out during the year.

#### P U B L I C   C O N V E N I E N C E S

The Public Conveniences in Helmsley operated satisfactorily throughout the year, and have again proved a great benefit in dealing with the additional traffic through the town.

#### S H O P S

No statutory action has been found necessary.

#### S M O K E   A B A T E M E N T

No action has been found necessary.

#### S W I M M I N G   B A T H S   A N D   P O O L S

There are no public baths in this area.

#### R O D E N T   C O N T R O L

The Rodent Operative employed jointly by this Council and the Kirbymoorside Rural District Council to carry out their obligations under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, has been fully engaged throughout the year. Regular treatments were satisfactorily carried out on the Council-owned refuse tip, sewers and sewage disposal works together with several open ditches. 998 properties were surveyed and 140 treatments carried out.

For work carried out on business premises the sum of £205. 10. 4d. is recoverable.

#### H O U S E   A N D   B U I L D I N G   P L A N S

Necessary visiting work has been carried out in the administration of the Building



Byelaws in force in the rural area.

During the year the following plans for new building work were approved by the Council:-

Helmsley	17
Cold Kirby	1
Hawnby	2
Rievaulx	4
Harome	6
Ampleforth	7
Fangdale Beck	1
Gilling East	2
Pockley	1
Oswaldkirk	5
Old Byland	1
Beadlam	2
Stonegrave	1
Sproxton	1
Oldstead	3
Byland-with-Wass	1
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Total	55
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#### CIVIL BUILDING CONTROL

The administration of the regulations governing the control of civil building necessitated a considerable amount of work.

Fifteen applications for building licences were received and investigated and visits made where necessary.

The licences issued during the year were as follows:-

Helmsley R.D.C.	5
Ministry of Works	10

#### SCHOOLS

Visits have been made to the schools in the area and minor matters arising from these visits have been satisfactorily dealt with.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The necessary disinfection has been carried out at houses where cases of infectious disease have occurred.

#### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, My Lord and Gentlemen, I would like to record my appreciation to the Council for the courtesy and assistance extended to me during the year, and also to tender my thanks to Dr. W.R.M. Couper, Medical Officer of Health, for his co-operation and to Mr W.C. Ranson, Additional Sanitary Inspector, and the other members of my staff for their loyal support.

I am, Mr Chairman, My Lord and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant, F.W. STONEY, Senior Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Water Engineer.





